

that in 1993, Congress trebled the checkoff amount from \$1 to \$3 to counter a shortfall in the system.

Mr. Speaker, I think it is also important to note that modern-day campaigns and financing tend to render the checkoff-funding system somewhat ineffective. As it was conceived, the fund's creators believed that the program's spending limits would be an asset to campaigns. However, the statute does not limit independent spending, which can supplement a candidate's campaign treasury. As a result, the program is essentially restricting the speech of some elements of our society. In addition, the fund was created to alleviate the fundraising burden for primary candidates. While well intentioned, this component has had the opposite effect because primary candidates must try to raise funds in matchable \$250 increments and may not accept more than \$1,000 from an individual contributor. Consequently, fundraising requires more time and more resources.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, in six elections—1976 through 1996—\$887 million was distributed under the fund. Some of the recipients of these precious tax dollars clearly lacked electoral credibility and appeal. For example, Lyndon LaRouch, who served a prison term for fraud and tax law violations, received more than \$2.5 million. Given the public's overwhelming rejection of the system and the fact that tax dollars should be directed to more worthy government programs, I encourage my colleagues to join me in this effort to terminate the presidential Election Campaign Fund by cosponsoring H.R. 191.

HONORING PAUL BESSELIEVRE

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 31, 2001

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Paul Besselievre, the incoming President of the Greater Fresno Area Chamber of Commerce. The Greater Fresno Area Chamber of Commerce is the largest business organization in California's Central Valley.

Paul served as Chief Executive Officer of the Fresno Chamber during the past year. His experience as C.E.O. gives Paul great insight into the goals of the Fresno Chamber during 2001.

Paul graduated from South Dakota School of Mines and Technology in 1964 with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Electrical Engineering. Growing up in South Dakota, Paul had a natural love for the outdoors. It was this passion that brought him to the Fresno area. He opened his own business in Fresno and is currently the President/Owner of Valley Trane Heating and Air Conditioning.

Paul has been highly active in his community. His past and present membership in professional organizations includes: Board Member, Workforce Development Board; Board Member, Fresno Business Council; Board Member, United Way; Board Member/Secretary, Fresno Rotary; Board Member, Community Food Bank; Life Member, Optimist Society; Member, Yosemite Lakes Park Community Church; Member, American Society of Heating, Refrigeration and Air Conditioning Engineers.

The Greater Fresno Area Chamber of Commerce is the second largest Chamber in California. They currently have over 2,300 members. Their sole mission is to promote business and enhance the economic cultural well being of the people in Fresno County.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Paul Besselievre as the incoming President of the Greater Fresno Area Chamber of Commerce. I urge my colleagues to join me in wishing Paul Besselievre many more years of continued success.

IN RECOGNITION OF REVEREND GERARD A. PISANI, HONOREE OF THE RICHARD RUTKOWSKI ASSO- CIATION

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 31, 2001

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Reverend Gerard A. Pisani, who will be honored by the Richard Rutkowski Association for his exceptional contributions to the community of Bayonne, NJ on January 20, 2001.

In America, the wealth and prosperity of our communities is not based solely on economic indicators. In fact, the most important indicator for the social well being of our neighborhoods and communities is the important contribution of community leaders; and today, I rise to recognize a truly great leader.

Pastor Pisani attended Wheaton College and Taylor University, and completed his theological training at Nyack Missionary College. He was ordained to the ministry in the Baptist church in 1962. Pastor Pisani finished his requirements to become an ordained Priest in the Episcopal Church on October 15, 1966, and was appointed the first Vicar of St. Gabriel's Church, where he served until he became the Rector of Christ Church in Pompton Lakes. In 1974, he came to Trinity Parish in Bergen Point, where he is currently the pastor.

In addition, Pastor Pisani is the president of Windmill Alliance, Inc., an organization that consists of volunteers from several local churches and temples and works in cooperation with leaders from area businesses and industry to provide for the needs of the community. The following groups are involved: The Windmill Center, a daily work activity center for disabled adults; Supportive Living, a residence program for disabled adults; Highways, a program providing support for the needy; the Umbrella Project, a proposed program to provide housing for women and children in need; and Supportive Employment, which provides career development, job training, and employment for adults with special needs.

Pastor Pisani has served on the Board of the Bayonne Medical Center, and is presently serving on the Bioethics Committee of the Bayonne Hospital as co-chair of the education committee. He is also chaplain of the Bayonne Kiwanis Club, the Bayonne Fire Department, and secretary/treasurer of the Bayonne Interfaith Clergy Association. He has received numerous awards from these and other organizations.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Reverend Gerard A. Pisani. Through his compassion and dedication, he

has made great contributions to the community of Bayonne. His leadership and hard work are a great asset and an example for us all.

TRIBUTE TO BETTY FITZPATRICK

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 31, 2001

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to congratulate a remarkable woman, Betty Fitzpatrick, for her remarkable devotion to her community.

Betty is being honored on January 31, 2001, by the National Association of School Nurses as the Nurse Administrator of the Year. Over the last eleven years, Betty has served as the Director of Health Services for Jefferson County Schools in Golden, Colorado. Betty oversees 136 schools in the Jefferson County area, where she has spent her life as an advocate for Colorado's youth. The depth of Betty's contributions goes much deeper than nursing. Her portfolio is witness to the difference she has made in the life of others: she has been the president and treasurer of her state nursing association, a prolific author, an advocate for legislation, grant writer, and a national presenter. Betty's contributions to the citizens of Colorado are great in number of deserve the recognition of this body.

Betty is an extraordinary citizen. While her skills as a nurse have been tested daily throughout her accomplished career, on one day—a day our country will never forget—she was put to the test and taken to the limits. On April 20, 1999, an incomprehensible tragedy took place on the grounds of one of Betty's schools—Columbine High School. She was notified of the tragedy within minutes of its occurrence, and with hesitation she enacted an emergency plan and led the charge to assist the war-torn school.

Betty is a tribute to nurses everywhere. Colleagues describe Betty as a quite nurse who handles herself with grace. Her enthusiasm to her work and her compassion is deserving of far more than this Congressional tribute. Ultimately, the highest compliment that she can ever receive is the trust and love of her patients and the community. That, Mr. Speaker, is exactly what she has earned.

Betty is an inspiration for us all and for all these reasons she is deserving of this honor. It is with this, Mr. Speaker, that I say thank you to Betty for her dedication and service to her community over the years. She has worked hard for her community and state, giving mightily of herself to her neighbors.

For that, Betty, we are all profoundly grateful.

SAFER AMERICA FOR EVERYONE'S CHILDREN ACT (SAFE CHILDREN ACT), H.R. 255

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 31, 2001

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing H.R. 255, the Safer America for Everyone's Children Act, or Safe Children Act. The